



E-Legislative Update

March 8, 2010

We are in the ninth week of the legislative session. As this is a short session, it is expected that this will be the last week that the Legislature is meeting unless the Governor and the Legislature establish a special session. There has been no word whether this will be the case. The final week is reserved for concurrence, in other words, any bill amended by the opposite house must have those amendments concurred in by the house of origin. Thus, House amendments to Senate bills must be concurred in by the Senate. Only Senate bills amended by the House will appear on a Senate Concurrence Calendar.



You can [contact your legislator](#) making your position on a bill known. You can do so by writing a letter, sending an e-mail, calling the legislator's Olympia office, or by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.

The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs legislative priorities focus on state budget development and bills that impact the Asian Pacific American community in the areas of education, health care, human services, economic development, and immigration.

The legislature discussed the following bills and issues of interest to the Asian Pacific American community last week.

Week Eight Highlights:

March 5th was the last day for bills to be considered by the opposite house, with some exception including "matters necessary to implement budgets." Examples include the number of bills heard this session that raise state revenues to help close the state's 2.8 billion dollar shortfall. The legislature will continue to debate these bills, in conjunction with finalizing the state's budget through next week.

Both the House and the Senate passed their version of the Supplemental Operating Budget. Throughout next week, key legislators of both chambers will hold conference committees to create one budget.

Each chamber also passed revenue packages to help close the state's 2.8 billion dollar shortfall. Highlights of the \$758 million dollar revenue package can be viewed [here](#).

The Senate revenue package raises \$890 million dollars. Unlike the House revenue package, the Senate's package includes an increase in the sales tax. The Governor expressed a preference to not raise sales taxes. The main concern against a sales tax is its regressive nature, meaning that people at lower income levels end up paying more tax than those at higher income levels.

The Senate debated [SB 6250](#), a higher earner's income tax, drawing significant public testimony.

Members of the Filipino community around the state attended the passage of [Senate Resolution 8668](#). Both the House and Senate recognized Commissioner Rey Pascua and Kendee Yamaguchi of the Commission of Asian Pacific American Affairs, members of the Yakima and Seattle Filipino communities, the Filipino American National Historical Society, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of the Pacific Northwest, former Washington State Representative Velma Voloria, and a number of other prominent Filipino Americans in passing SR 8668.

Highlights of legislative discussion on **EDUCATION**:

- Senate passed [HB 3026](#) Regarding school district compliance with state and federal civil rights laws
- Senate passed [HB 2621](#) Designating resource programs for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction in K-12 schools
- Senate passed [HB 2801](#) Regarding antiharassment strategies in public schools
- House passed [SB 6696](#) Regarding education reform, changing how public schools are funded and increases federal funds in the short term

Highlights of legislative discussions in the areas of **HEALTH CARE** and **HUMAN SERVICES**:

- Senate passed [HB 2551](#) Washington vaccine association, which establishes a non-profit corporation to purchase childhood vaccines. This bill is in reaction to budget cuts to the state's universal childhood vaccine program.
- Senate passed [HB 4220](#) Amending the state Constitution so that the provision relating to bailable crimes by sufficient sureties is modified. This bill allows judges to withhold bail and continue detention of persons in jail. This controversial bill is in response to the Maurice Clemmons case. There is concern that this bill negatively impacts people of color.
- House passed [SB 6726](#) Making the governor the public employer of language access providers

Highlights of legislative discussion on **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** include:

- House passed [SB 6575](#) Concerning the recommendations of the joint legislative task force on the underground economy
- House passed [2SSB 6667](#) Concerning business assistance programs

You can find more information through our e-legislative update and Web site on committee hearings, bills, and other events of interest throughout the legislative session. Our e-legislative update provides a general overview of a few bills of interest to the Asian Pacific American community while our [Web site](#) hosts a more extensive [list of bills](#) for those community members seeking more information.

Below are some scheduled meetings and hearings that might be of interest to you. For the week of March 8th, both chambers will almost exclusively be working on the floor to debate and vote on bills and creating new state law. Bills heard on the House or Senate Floor change daily and can be monitored by viewing the following pages on the Washington State Legislature Web site:

Senate Floor Activity Report: [click here](#)

House Floor Activity Report: [click here](#)

Budget

Ways & Means

3/08/10 11:00 a.m.

Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 4

J.A. Cherberg Building

Olympia, WA

Executive Session: [SB 6364](#) - Concerning the capital budget.

Information is current as of: March 8, 2010.

To find out more information on a particular bill, please visit <http://www.leg.wa.gov>

CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

To receive more electronic updates, visit us at <http://www.capaa.wa.gov>. To unsubscribe, [click here](#).